



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

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Hentz's Redbelly Tiger Beetle *Cicindela rufiventris hentzii*

State Status: **Threatened**

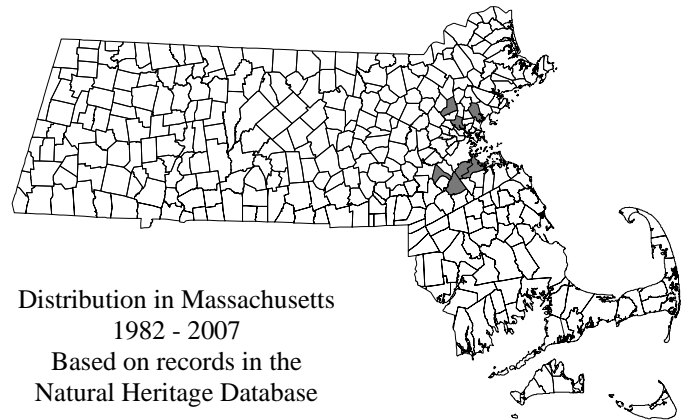
Federal Status: None

Description: Hentz's Redbelly Tiger is a predatory beetle, 9-12 mm in length, with long slender legs and a body that is dark, bluish-brown above, with white maculations on the elytra (wing covers); on the underside, the body is dark, iridescent blue with a brownish-red to orange abdomen ("belly"). Tiger beetles are so named because of their "tiger-like" behavior of chasing down and capturing prey with their long mandibles.

Habitat: Hentz's Redbelly Tiger Beetle inhabits sunny rock outcrops and ridges with sparse vegetation; soil-filled fissures must be present for the larvae to construct their burrows. Some of the outcrops occupied by Hentz's Redbelly Tiger burn frequently, which may enhance habitat for both adults and larvae by clearing vegetation and opening the canopy.

Life History: Hentz's Redbelly Tiger Beetle has a one-year life cycle (Leonard & Bell 1999). Adult beetles are active in July and August, when they mate and the females lay eggs. Eggs hatch soon after they are laid, and larvae feed until the fall and spend the winter in larval diapause. Larvae resume feeding in the spring and complete development by July or August.

Range: Hentz's Redbelly Tiger Beetle is currently only known from the hills around Boston, Massachusetts (Pearson et al. 2006).



Threats

- Habitat loss to development
- Fire suppression
- Invasion by exotic plants
- Insecticide spraying

References

Leonard, J.G., and R.T. Bell. 1999. *Northeastern Tiger Beetles: A Field Guide to Tiger Beetles of New England and Eastern Canada*. CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida.

Pearson, D.L., Knisley, C.B., and C.J. Kazilek. 2006. *A Field Guide to the Tiger Beetles of the United States and Canada*. Oxford University Press, New York, New York.

Adult Activity Period in Massachusetts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec